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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/921,224	08/01/2001	Matthias Breuer	30014200-1007	5926

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EXAMINER

STORK, KYLE R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/921,224

Applicant(s)

BREUER, MATTHIAS

Examiner

Kyle R. Stork

Art Unit

2178

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This final office action is in response to the amendment filed 20 January 2006.
2. Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1, 7-8, 11, and 17-18 are independent claims. The rejection of claims 1-6 and 8-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Sorge et al. (US 6691281, filed 15 June 1999), Zellweger et al. (US 6185582, filed 17 June 1998), and Bhansali et al. (US 6006239, patented 21 December 1999) has been withdrawn as necessitated by the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-6 and 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanai (US 5339410, patented 16 August 1994) and further in view of Bhansali et al. (US 6006239, patented 21 December 1999, hereafter Bhansali).

In regard to independent claim 1, Kanai discloses a method in data processing system for enabling a user to input data into a document comprising cells arranged in columns and rows, a first of the cells and a second of the cells each having an original content, the method comprising the steps of:

- Overriding, without deleting, the original content of the first cell with a first user inputted value, the first cell keeping the original content of the first cell in the first

cell while the original content is overridden (column 1, line 66- column 2, line 4; column 4, lines 17-25: Here, a first cell containing a formula (variable value cell) has the formula overridden by an input value. However, the formula is maintained (not changed))

- Recalculating the cells based on the first user inputted value (column 4, lines 17-34: Here, the corresponding cells that rely on the value of the first cell are recalculated)

Kanai fails to specifically disclose:

- After recalculating the cells based on the first user input value, overriding, without deleting, the original content of the second cell with a second user inputted value, the second cell keeping the original content of the second cell in the second cell while the original content of the second cell is overridden
- Recalculating the cells based on the second user inputted value

However, as disclosed above, Kanai discloses recalculating cells based on an inputted override value without deleting the original content of a cell (column 1, line 66- column 2, line 4; column 4, lines 17-34). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have perform Kanai's method multiple times, since it would have allowed a user to easily produce a multiple direction calculation model based upon the relation of cell values (Kanai: column 2, lines 5-14).

Kanai further fails to specifically disclose keeping original content with overridden data. However, Bhansali discloses keeping original content with overridden data and the method for restoring original content (column 3, lines 28-40). It would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Kanai with Bhansali's method, since it would have allowed a user to undo undesirable changes to data (Bhansali: column 3, lines 28-40).

In regard to dependent claim 2, Kanai discloses wherein the document is a spreadsheet document and the steps of the method are performed by a spreadsheet program (column 1, lines 64-66).

In regard to dependent claim 3, Kanai discloses wherein the step of recalculating the cells based on the first user inputted value comprises automatically recalculating each cell which contains a reference to the ... and wherein the step of recalculating the cells based on the second user inputted value comprises automatically recalculating each cell which contains a reference to the second cell (column 1, line 67- column 2, line 4).

In regard to dependent claim 4, Kanai discloses providing to the user an option for selecting the first cell to input the first user inputted value; and providing to the user an option for inputting the first user inputted value (column 1, lines 67- column 2, line 4).

In regard to dependent claim 5, Kanai discloses storing the first user inputted data as a last result of a formula of the first cell (column 1, line 67- column 2, line 4). Kanai further discloses setting a flag of the first cell to indicate that the stored last result of the first cell is valid; and setting a flag of each cell which references the first cell to indicate that the stored last result of each cell which references the first cell is invalid (column 5, line 49- column 6, line 50: Here, the M-cell has a mark associated with it, to show that the cell recalculation has been performed).

In regard to dependent claim 6, Kanai discloses recalculating each cell (column 4, lines 17-34). Kanai discloses for each cell being recalculated, determining whether the flag is set to valid (column 5, line 49- column 6, line 50); when it is determined that the flag is not set to valid, recalculating the last result of the cell to produce a new value (column 5, line 49- column 6, line 50); replacing the last result with the new value such that the new value becomes the last result (column 5, line 49- column 6, line 50); and setting the flag to valid; and using the last result for the recalculation. (column 5, line 49- column 6, line 50).

In regard to independent claim 8, the applicant discloses the data processing system for the execution of the method of claim 1. Claim 8 is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claims 9 and 12, claim 9 and 12 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 2 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 10, Kanai discloses a formula; a last result of the formula (column 4, lines 17-34). Kanai fails to disclose a flag indicating a validity of the last result. Kanai further discloses a flag indicating a validity of the last result (column 5, line 49- column 6, line 50).

In regard to independent claim 11, claim 11 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 1 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 13, claim 13 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 3 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 14, claim 14 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 4 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 15, claim 15 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 5 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 16, claim 16 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 6 and is rejected along the same rationale.

5. Claims 7 and 17-18 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sorge et al. (US 6691281, filed 15 June 1999, herein after Sorge) and further in view of Zellweger et al. (US 6185582, filed 17 June 1998, herein after Zellweger) and further in view of Bhansali.

In regard to independent claim 7, Sorge discloses receiving a plurality of values for a plurality of the cells (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. a plurality of cells receiving data); and storing the values in the last result of the plurality of the cells such that the values are used during recalculation instead of the formulas and such that the plurality of the cells can be restored independently of other of the plurality of cells. (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells and Col 6 Lines 5-22 i.e. user input recalculated Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. a plurality of cells receiving data and Sorge Col 6 Lines 22-37 i.e. data is stored and Col 10 Lines 45-57).

Sorge does not specifically mention the table having a plurality of cells such as a first and second cell. However, Zellweger mentions a first and second cell (Zellweger Col 5 Lines 20-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply

Zellweger to Sorge, providing Zellweger the benefit of having a first and second cell so the information in the first cell can be replaced with data from the second cell.

Sorge also fails to specifically disclose maintaining the formulas stored within cells so that these formulas can be restored. However, Bhansali discloses restoring data in cells, some of the data being formulas (column 3, lines 28-40).). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Sorge and Zellweger's method with Bhansali's method, since it would have allowed a user to undo undesirable changes to data (Bhansali: column 3, lines 28-40).

In regard to dependent claim 17, claim 17 reflects similar subject matter claimed in claim 7 and is rejected along the same rationale.

In regard to dependent claim 18, Sorge discloses a first storage area that stores a formula; and a second storage area that stores a numerical value that temporarily overrides the formula so that the numerical value is used instead of the formula during recalculation. (Sorge Col 4 Lines 9-37 i.e. storage which stores information such as the formula calculation)

Sorge does not specifically mention the table having a plurality of cells such as a first and second cell. However, Zellweger mentions a first and second cell (Zellweger Col 5 Lines 20-37). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply Zellweger to Sorge, providing Zellweger the benefit of having a first and second cell so the information in the first cell can be replaced with data from the second cell.

Sorge also fails to specifically disclose maintaining the formulas stored within cells so that these formulas can be restored. However, Bhansali discloses restoring data in cells, some of the data being formulas (column 3, lines 28-40). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the applicant's invention to have combined Sorge and Zellweger's method with Bhansali's method, since it would have allowed a user to undo undesirable changes to data (Bhansali: column 3, lines 28-40).

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 and 8-16 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

As disclosed above, the Kanai reference has been added to address the applicant's amended claim limitations.

7. Applicant's arguments filed 20 January 2006, with respect to claims 7 and 17-18 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The applicant argues that the combination of Sorge, Zellweger, and Bhansali fail to teach recalculating a cell instead of the formula. However, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Sorge discloses receiving a plurality of values for a plurality of the cells (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. a plurality of cells receiving data); and storing the values in the last result of the plurality of the cells such that the values are used during recalculation instead of the formulas and such that the plurality of the cells can be

restored independently of other of the plurality of cells. (Sorge Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. recalculating data inserted in the cells and Col 6 Lines 5-22 i.e. user input recalculated Col 4 Lines 10-20 i.e. a plurality of cells receiving data and Sorge Col 6 Lines 22-37 i.e. data is stored and Col 10 Lines 45-57).

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

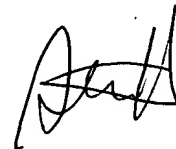
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kyle R. Stork whose telephone number is (571) 272-4130. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Hong can be reached on (571) 272-4124. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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STEPHEN HONG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

hrs